

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DLOS-04 SAL-01

TRSE-00 OES-06 ACDA-07 /099 W  
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R 291329Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3376

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION USNATO

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

EUCOM GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJ: MFA OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON FIR, LOS AND AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF

REF: ANKARA 2939

1. APRIL 28 EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED WITH MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, HALIL DAG, THE STATUS OF THE FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR) DISPUTE WITH GREECE, TURKEY'S IMPRESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK AND THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE.

2. DAG SAID THAT THE FIR TALKS WERE ON DEAD-CENTER. HE SAID IT APPEARED THAT GREECE WAS WAITING FOR TURKEY TO  
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WITHDRAW NOTAM 714 BEFORE AGREEING TO OPEN THE AEGEAN TO

COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT. UNFORTUNATELY, DAG SAID, TURKEY COULD NOT WITHDRAW THE NOTAM UNTIL SOME AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT WOULD PROVIDE FOR EARLY WARNING OF AIRCRAFT APPROACHING THE TURKISH LANDMASS. HE SAID THERE WAS NO SCHEDULED DATE FOR RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS.

3. CONCERNING THE NEW YORK SESSION OF THELOS CONFERENCE, DAG SAID TURKEY WAS SOMEWHAT PLEASED BY THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT IT HAD FOUND FOR ITS POSITION. (TURKEY SUPPORTS THE IRISH PROPOSAL TO GIVE PRIMACY TO " SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES" IN DETERMINING JURISDICTION IN WATERS BETWEEN NEIGHBORING STATES.) HE SAID THE TURKISH DELEGATION THOUGHT PROGRESS HAD BEEN VERY SLOW, HOWEVER, AND WAS NOT PARTICULARLY OPTIMISTIC THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED THIS YEAR EITHER AT THE CURRENT SESSION OR A SUBSEQUENT ONE. ON THE SUBJECT OF DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, DAG OFFERED THE PERSONNAL VIEW THAT TURKEY WOULD OPPOSE ANY PROPOSAL FOR COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT.

4. DAG SAID THAT GREECE AND TURKEY WILL HOLD A SECOND SESSION OF TALKS ON THE AEGEAN INTERCONTINENTAL SHELF IN BERN ON JUNE 19 AND 20. HE SAID THAT DURING THE PREVIOUS SESSION BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED TO HOLD THIS MEETING, BUT GOG HAD FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON CHOSEDN TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TALKS HAD RESULTED IN A STALEMATE AND HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO ADMIT PUBLICLY THAT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING HAD BEEN AGREED TO. THE GOG HAS NOW AGREED THAT THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE, BUT IT WILL BE BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS, HOWEVER AND NOT THE TETE-A-TETE BETWEEN AMBASSADOR BILGE AND GREEK MFA SECGEN TZOUNIS THAT THE GOT SUGGESTED.

5. WHEN ASKED HOW THE ANTICIPATED SEISMIC EXPLORATION ACTIVITITES OF THE HORA (REFTEL) MIGHT AFFECT THIS SCHEDULED MEETING, DAG SAID THAT THE SAILING OF THE HORA FOR SEISMIC EXPLORATION WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE BERN TALKS IN JUNE. (PLEASE PROTECT DAG AS SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION.) HE ALSO INDICATED THAT ANY SEISMIC EXPLORATION THAT DID TAKE PLACE WOULD PROBABLY BE CONFINED TO WATERS OF THE EASTERN AGEGEAN OFF THE COAST OF NOTRHER PARTS OF IZMIR AND SOUTHERN PARTS OF CANAKALE PROVINCES. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY WOULD BE DELIBERATELY CAUTIOUS IN AN ATTEMPT

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NOT TO AGGRAVATE THE ALREADY STRAINED SITUATION.

6. COMMENT: DAG'S ASSURANCE THAT THE HORA WILL NOT CONDUCT SEISMIC EXPLORATION PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE BERN TALKS IS, IN OUR VIEW, A POSITIVE INDICATION OF TURKEY'S AWARENESS OF THE VOLATILITY OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE. THIS SSURANCE WAS MADE IN THE FACE OF INCREASING CRITICISM BY THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) OF

ALLEGED GOT INACTION IN ASSERTING TURKISH RIGHTS IN THE  
AEGEAN. WE ARE THEREFORE NOT SANGUINE THE GOT WILL IN  
FACT BE ABLE TO DELAY THE HORA'S OPERATIONS UNTIL LATE  
JUNE. MOREOVER, EVEN IF IT DOES, ANYTHING LESS THAN A  
DRAMATIC BREAK-THROUGH DURING THE BERN TALKS WILL ALMOST  
CERTAINLY MEAN THE HORA WILL SAIL IMMEDIATELY UPON  
CONCLUSION OF THOSE TALKS.  
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## Message Attributes

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